

### **ABSTRACT**

**[0029]** An axle assembly comprising a tube disposed about a longitudinal axis and having first and second end portions and a center portion wherein the first and second end portions have a uniform wall thickness and the center portion has a wall thickness that is uniform at first and second axially spaced segments and a non-uniform wall thickness both between the axially spaced segments and between each of the axially spaced segments and the end portions.

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